

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SOE-02 AF-10  
ARA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02  
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P R 141315Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3189  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2964

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, UNGA, FI  
SUBJ: FINLAND LINKS BID FOR COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (C) MEMBERSHIP  
TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATION OF STRENGTHENING FINNISH NEUTRALITY

REF: A. GENEVA 13250, B. STATE 224117, C. HELSINKI 2834

1. THE NEW FINNISH DEMARCHES ON CD MEMBERSHIP (REPORTED REFTELS), ARE PART OF A BROADER FINNISH EFFORT TO RALLY SUPPORT FOR ITS CANDIDACY. A FONMIN OFFICIAL TOLD THE CHARGE THAT FINLAND HAS INITIATED A DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE ITS OBJECTIVE OF CD MEMBERSHIP.

2. THE THREE FINNISH DEMARCHES REPORTED IN THE REFTELS HAVE IN COMMON A NEW POLITICAL DIMENSION LINKING CD MEMBERSHIP AND FINNISH NEUTRALITY. PREVIOUS FINNISH APPROACHES ON THIS ISSUE HAD STRESSED FINNISH INTEREST AND EXPERTISE IN DISARMAMENT MATTERS. THE RECENT DEMARCHES IN GENEVA (REF A) AND HELSINKI (REF C) HINTED RATHER OPENLY AT A FELT FINNISH NEED TO STRENGTHEN OR  
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DEEPEN FINNISH NEUTRALITY AND STATED DIRECTLY THAT CD MEMBERSHIP WOULD ACCOMPLISH THAT END. THE ILONIEMI PRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON (REF B) APPARENTLY DID NOT GO THAT FAR, INSTEAD MAKING THE POINT THAT FINLAND'S NEUTRALITY WOULD MAKE IT A MORE WIDELY ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATE.

3. WE FIND IT VERY INTERESTING THAT FINNISH REPRESENTATIVES IN A CLEARLY COORDINATED MOVE ARE NOW STRESSING POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS -- SPECIFICALLY, THE SENSITIVE QUESTION OF FINNISH NEUTRALITY -- IN THEIR BID FOR CD MEMBERSHIP. IT IS OBVIOUS THE FINNS ARE CONCERNED THAT THEIR CANDIDACY IS NOT PROSPERING AND ARE SEEKING ADDITIONAL, MORE PERSUASIVE ARGUMENTS TO BUTTRESS THEIR CASE. THE APPEAL TO HELPING FINNISH NEUTRALITY MAY, THEREFORE, BE IN PART TACTICAL: THE IMAGE OF AN EMBATTLED FINLAND IN NEED OF WESTERN SUPPORT HAS NOT, IN THE EMBASSY'S MEMORY, BEEN MUCH EVOKED BY THE FINNS RECENTLY, BUT IN THE PAST IT HAS SOMETIMES STRUCK RESPONSIVE CHORDS IN THE WEST AND MOVED FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF FINNISH POSITIONS.

4. TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS NOTWITHSTANDING, IT IS A FACT THAT FINLAND IS UNDER SOME PRESSURE AT THIS TIME FROM THE SOVIET UNION (HELSINKI 2737--NOTAL). WHILE THE FINNISH MFA HAS DENIED THE REPORTED SPECIFIC INCIDENT OF SOVIET PRESSURE, THE COMMENTS OF THE FINNISH REPRESENTATIVES IN THEIR DEMARCHES ON CD MEMBERSHIP IN GENEVA AND HELSINKI MAY WELL BE DELIBERATE, IF GENERAL, ALLUSIONS TO SOVIET PRESSURE. AT THE VERY LEAST, THE FINNS HAVE TO ASSUME THAT THEIR REFERENCES TO THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN FINNISH NEUTRALITY MIGHT BE LINKED BY U.S. DIPLOMATS TO SPECULATION ABOUT INCREASED SOVIET CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESSURE ON FINLAND.

5. THE APPROACH TAKEN BY THE FINNS IN THEIR RECENT DEMARCHES THUS UNDERSCORES THE DEPTH OF THE FINNISH DESIRE TO BECOME A CD MEMBER, PROBABLY FOR THE REASONS OUTLINED IN PARA 2, REF C. THE FINNS IN EFFECT ARE ARGUING THAT CD MEMBERSHIP PER SE WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE IMAGE OF FINNISH NEUTRALITY, AND IN A SENSE THEY ARE CORRECT. MAXIMIZATION OF FINNISH NEUTRALITY IS A PRIMARY U.S. INTEREST IN FINLAND. HOWEVER, THE NET EFFECT OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE CD ON FINNISH NEUTRALITY WOULD DEPEND ON FINLAND'S ACTUAL PERFORMANCE IN THAT ROLE. IN THIS REGARD THE EMBASSY WOULD SIMPLY REAFFIRM ITS EARLIER ANALYSIS (REF C) WHICH REVIEWED THE MIX OF ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES THAT FINNISH MEMBERSHIP WOULD IMPLY FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISARMAMENT, MEMBERSHIP, NEUTRALISM, COMMITTEES  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** PARM, FI, UNGA  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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